

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 5, 2006***

The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm. Selectmen present were: Janet Smith and James McIlroy. Wes Moore joined the meeting in progress. Others present were: Chief Reed and Lt. Gould of the Police Department, Pam Abbott, Chip Purrington, and Ray Trueman – Trustees of the Trust Funds, and John Hayden of the Budget Advisory Committee.

No department reports were given. The Selectmen reviewed correspondence from the Town Attorney.

Chief Reed gave the paperwork from FEMA to the Selectmen for damage caused by the floods in May. The funds have been received and were deposited directly into the Town's bank account by FEMA.

Next week is the last week of the speed grant. A report will be given to the Selectmen which will include the number of stops and summons issued. This is a report which must be filed in order to receive the grant.

Chief Reed is going on vacation next week and Lt. Gould will be in charge during his absence.

The Chief asked if the Dog Ordinance was going to be changed to be parallel with the State RSA or remain as it is now. Lt. Gould will get copies of the ordinance from the surrounding towns for the Selectmen to review. The problem seems to be that right now a dog attacking another dog is not addressed by the Town's Ordinance, but is addressed by the State RSA and is also a civil matter.

Once Lt. Gould obtains the ordinances from the surrounding towns, the Selectmen will review the matter again. It was decided to do so at the October 10th meeting.

With regard to the Newfields Venture Club, Lt. Gould has sent information to the schools. She would like to have enough participants for Newfields to have its own club.

With regards to the memo from Chief Reed to Nancy issuing a pay increase effective July 2nd for six of his staff members, Chief Reed stated that the probationary period had passed for two members of the department and one officer went from part-time to full-time status. He said it was a coincidence that

these occurred at the same time, but that none of his budget line items would be exceeded because of these raises.

Pam Abbott of the Trustees of the Trust Funds wanted to introduce the members to the Board of Selectmen. She said the Trustees deal mostly with Don Doane, The Town Treasurer, but are available to speak or meet with the Selectmen. Pam stated that the Trustee records are now kept in the Town Office.

A Sidewalk Fund had to be created in order to meet the Department of Revenue rules.

All Expendable Trust Funds are now with the state MBIA. Regular funds are with Citizens Bank.

The Selectmen expressed their appreciation to the Trustees for coming to the Selectmen's Meeting and look forward to working with them.

John Hayden of the Budget Advisory Committee was the only member of that Committee to attend the Selectmen's Meeting. Two members had indicated that they would not be able to attend. As John is also a member of the Planning Board, there was discussion about the Capital Improvement Program/Master Plan. Each member of the Planning Board has a section of the Master Plan to complete and the Planning Board members are very capable and willing to work on the Plan. However, much of their time lately has been taken up by several large projects in Town. John stated that each member is a volunteer and the Master Plan takes a great deal of time and effort. He thought the Selectmen may be better served by paying someone to complete the Master Plan although with the large projects nearing completion, he feels the Board may have more time to devote to the Master Plan.

John stated that the new procedure for accepting an application to the Planning Board has been working well. It eliminates the need for a quick decision, giving the Board time to review the application thoroughly.

With regard to the Budget Advisory Committee, John stated that a meeting needs to be held soon. It was decided that the Committee will meet with the Selectmen at 7:00pm on September 12th and then go upstairs to the Town Hall to have their own meeting. John sees a tendency with various Town Departments to spend much more in the last quarter of the year than during the first three quarters of the year.

The Committee originally had seven members and is now down to five members. Wes stated that he will look for a couple of people willing to serve on the Committee.

James made a motion for the Selectmen to sign the letter to Elizabeth Hackett. Wes seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor. As there is a specific date for a reply from Ms. Hackett, Wes will ask Sue McKinnon to mail the letter.

The School Finance Report was reviewed. Janet will attend the Budget Finance Workshop. Verizon has suspended cable negotiations in the State of New Hampshire. The Selectmen will ask Bill Davis and the Cable Committee to attend a Selectmen's Meeting to answer any questions he/they may have about negotiating a contract with the remaining cable providers.

Brian Hart of the Rockingham Land Trust e-mailed a draft deed along with comments from Steve Hunley to the Selectmen for their review. He is looking for a go ahead from the Selectmen before sending the draft to RLT's attorney for approval. Wes deferred to James and Janet as he is not as familiar with the process as they are. The Board agreed to allow Brian to send the draft to his attorney, but reserves the right for the Town of Newfields to make changes.

The minutes of the August 29th meeting were approved as amended.

James advised that he will not be able to attend the meeting on September 19th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer